Enchanting Buildings Of Mysore

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Mysore, the erstwhile capital city of old Mysore State have a conglomeration of excellent buildings which are specimens of varied architectural styles like Indo-Saracenic, European and Hindu classical styles. Indeed this was the result of the dedicated and talented Engineers and Architects who were encouraged by the kings of Wodeyar dynasty.

World famous Mysore Palace

Mysore - a royal city and cultural capital or Karnataka is one of the most attractive tourist centre. The beautiful and the enchanting buildings exhibit a superb architectural variety which is a conglomeration of varied artistic styles. The buildings are mainly residential, administrative offices schools and hospitals. They are magnificent and exhibit the Indo- saracenic style, Hindu style, European style or Graeco- Roman style. The Ambavilas Palace, the Jaganmohan Palace, the Lalita Mahal palace, the Oriental Research Institute and the Krishnarajendra

Jaganmohana Palace

Hospital buildings are living legends of our rich architectural heritage.

Amba Vilas Palace

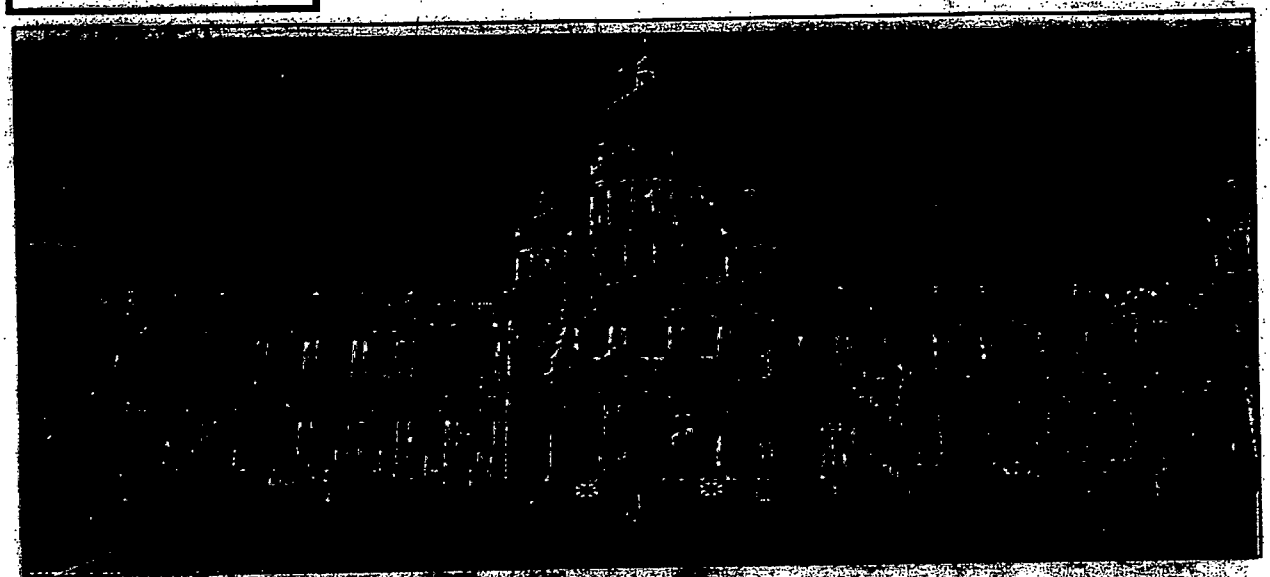
The Mysore palace is the abode of wodeyar kings. It was not only a residential centre but also a court and centre of all royal activities. The old Mysore palace inside the fort area caught fire during 20th February 1897, just earlier to the celebration of the marriage of the eldest princess Jayalakshmi Ammanni, causing irreparable damage to the palace.

After this incident a committee consisting of P.N. Krishna Murthy then member of the council, Col. Bewen Chief Engineer, and S.M. Fraser Tuter and Governor to His Highness the Maharaja, was appointed to investigate the causes at the outbreak of the fire. As an alternative arrangement the ruling family shifted to Jaganmohan palace situated just behind the present palace.

Then construction of new palace on the old site started immediately. The design was prepared by Henry Irwin of Madras. The construction work was started in August, 1897. A large number of masons and other workmen from all over India were brought in. It was completed during 1911-12 at the cost of Rs. 41.50 lakhs. It is built in Indo-saracenic style. It also exhibits the Chief Characteristics of the Hoysala style of decoration. This palace is a living monument a testimony to the skills of the local artisans, chisellers and engineers.

Lalitha Mahal Palace

This palace is situated at the foot of the Chamundi Hill



Lalith Mahal Palace

and presents a panoramic view. This palace was originally built for the guests of the palace. It was designed by E. W. Fritchely a famous architect of Bombay. It was completed in 1931 at a cost of Rs. 13 lakhs. The building is a majestic two- storey composition of twin Ionic columns, projecting porch on the ground floor on which rests a slightly - recessed pedimented pavilion on the first floor and spherical domes. The interior decoration of the palace exhibits excellence of local craftmenship. Propose decorations are seen on the motifs on walls and ceilings. Imported decorative elements like stained glass, floor tiles and luxury fittings have enriched the beauty of the palace.

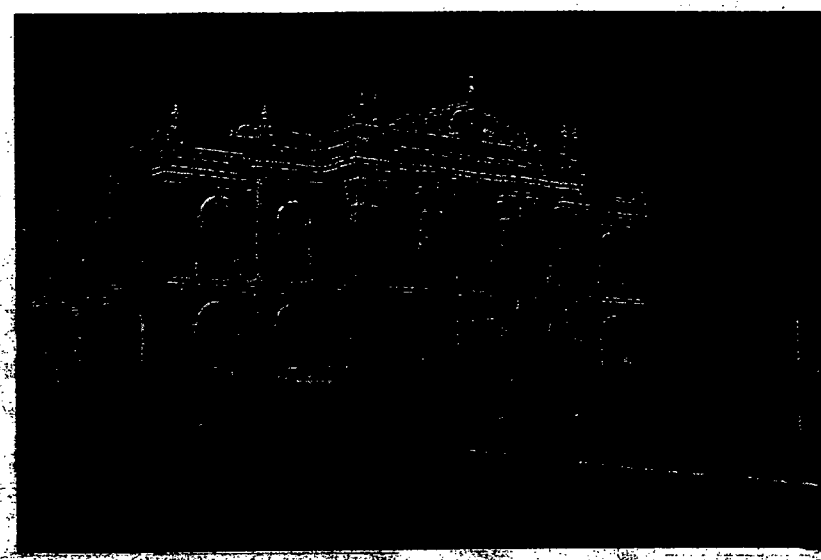
Oriental Research Institute

The foundation stone for this remarkable building was laid on 20th June 1887 by Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar and it was opened in October 1891. This building was constructed to commemorate the Jubilee year of Queen Elizebeth's visit to India. This structure is in European- Classical style mixed with Hindu style designed by Mr. Bassington, the consulting architect of Madras Government. Since 1891 the Department of Archaeology and Library is housed in this building both of which are attached to the University of Mysore. Today the Oriental Research Library has a collection of more than 22,000 rare documents in Sanskrit Language. The elevation of the building consists of a stepped balustraded approach to the triple-arched entrance verandah supported on corinthian double columns, which are repeated in the pedimented end days. The flanking verandahs are supported on Ionic columns. The central dome above has heavy entablature and contains a composition of pilastered niches surrounding an unusally conslicuous bas - releif panel depicting Shiva's marriage with Parvati.

Rangacharlu Memorial Hall

This hall was built to

commemorate the yeoman service rendered by Dewan Rangacharlu. This building is in Graeco-Roman style. The foundation stone of the building was laid by His Highness the Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar on 1st April 1884. This hall has a theatre in the centre which is used even today for public purposes.



Sri Rangachariu Memorial Hall

Jaganmohan Palace

The palace has a picture gallery and art museum since 1915. This palace is built predominantly in the Hindu style and was built by Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar. The royal family lived in this palace at the time of construction of present palace when it was damaged due to the sudden out break of fire in 1897. Later this palace also was used for the annual meetings of the Representative Assembly of the then Mysore State and the convocations of the Mysore University for a long time.

Chaluvamba Vilas

Chaluvamba Vilas Originally built as the third Maharajakumaris mansion in 1910-11. Since 1948 the Central Food Technology Research Institute is housed in this building. This is one of the most distinguished buildings of the city.

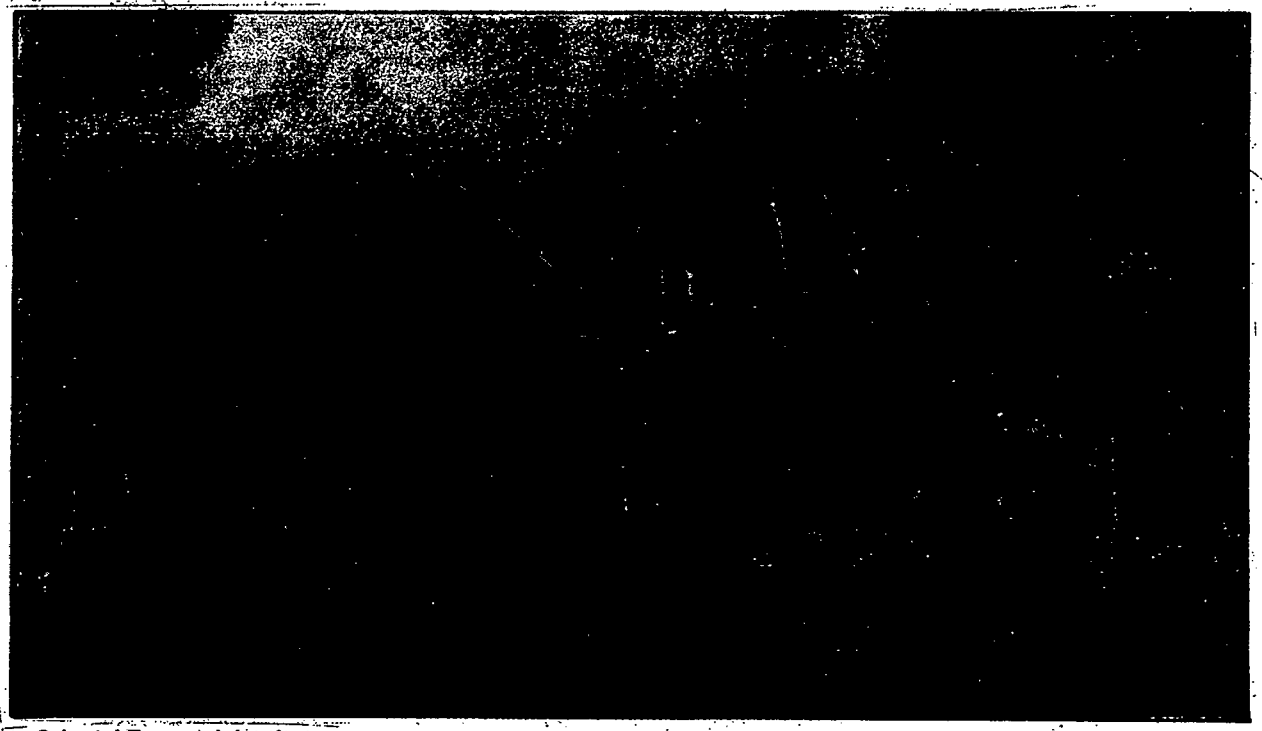
An edifice of imposing expanse, its main facade on the east is composed of a central set of twin towers, flanking a Semi-circular block of grand- columned verandahs on the ground and the first floor, focussing on a silhoutted crest of arched niches and mini-pediment with a Hindu religious motif.

Jayalakshmi Vilas

This was the residence of the first Maharajakumari Jayalakshmi-sister of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar. The construction work of this building was started in 1904-05 and completed in 1907. The total cost of this mansion was then Rs. 7 lakhs. Today this mansion houses a group of offices of the Mysore University and the University Museum of folk Arts. The salient architectural features of this imposing mansion include a series of twin convinthian and lonic columns, regal pediments, plastered window sets in variegated ensembles of flat arches, pediments and oral ventilators all richly moulded. There is a small courtyard with a fountain at the centre of the main building. The interior with rich carvings and mouldings both in masonry and wood are carried in Hindu style.

Dewan Seshadri Building

This handsome building



Oriental Research Institute

is named after Sir Seshadri Iyer, the famous Dewan of Mysore. This handsome building was designed by Standish Lee the State's Chief Engineer in-charge of sanitary works who occasionally contributed architectural designs for important public buildings. The cost of the building construction was Rs. 20,000. The salient feature of the architecture of this building is that an attempt was made to adapt an Italian style to Hindu style of architecture. This was constructed as the residence of Dewan Iyer. Besides all these there are innumerable beautiful buildings like Krishnarajendra hospital, Chamundi Guest House, Maharani College, Maharaja College, Marimallappa High School, Sri Muthia Chettiar Opthalmic block, Crowford Hall, Law Courts and City Corporation Offices buildings. There are the living legends of British architects and engineers who served the State in the middle of 19th Century and early part of 20th Century. In the middle of the 19th Century a Public Works Department was set up in the State which was headed and assisted by Europeon Engineers. As they were conversant with the types of buildings based on the five classic orders viz., Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite, all the buildings were raised in the manner of Italian or French Renaissance with classic details. The specimens of renaissance buildings are the Oriental Research Institute, the Maharaja's College, the Public Offices the Law Court buildings and the Jayalakshmi Vilas mansion all in Mysore city.